

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this Application is requested.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Manduley (U.S. Patent No. 5,648,916) in view of Hitt (U.S. Patent No. 6,604,132B1).

Manduley discloses the following in lines 3-51 of column 2.

"Referring now to the drawings in detail, and more particularly to **FIG. 1** the reference character **11** represents a communications hub or mail room that may be located in a building. Mail room **11** will receive conventional mail. The conventional mail consists of packages, letters, magazines, newspapers, advertisements, etc. In block **13** the mail room will decide which pieces of the incoming mail will be processed as slow mail and which pieces of the incoming mail will be processed as fast mail. Incoming packages, magazines, newspapers, advertisements, and other junk mail will be processed in the traditional way in block **14** as slow mail. Incoming letters will be processed in block **15** as fast mail. Externally transmitted electronic mail will be received by computer **16**. Computer **16** will read the incoming messages and transmit them to individual personal computers **17**, work stations **18** or facsimile machines **19**.

The fast letter mail will be scanned by scanner **20**. If the individual to whom the mail is addressed has a personal computer **17**, a work station **18** or a facsimile machine **19**, scanner **20** will transmit the electronically scanned letter to personal computer **17**, work station **18** or facsimile machine **19**. In the event the individual to whom the mail is addressed does not have a personal computer **17**, a work station **18** or a facsimile machine **19**, scanner **20** will transmit the electronically scanned letter to printer **21**. Printer **21** will print the letter. The letter may be wrapped and placed in a plastic file folder by wrapper **22** and filed in a movable document storage bin **23**. Storage bin **23** has a plurality of slots **24**, wherein a particular slot **24** may

be assigned to an individual. The individual to whom the letter was addressed may go to storage bin **23** and obtain the letter. Alternatively, instead of using bin **23** the letter printed by printer **21** may be delivered by personnel in the mail room. It will be obvious to one skilled in the art that any number of personal computers **17**, work stations **18**, facsimile machines **19**, printers **21**, wrappers **22** and bins **23** may be utilized.

Material that is internally generated by personal computers **17** and work stations **18** may be electronically transmitted via computer **16**. Internally generated material may also be transmitted electronically via facsimile machines **19** and computer **16** or directly by facsimile machines **19**. Another method for generating internal electronic mail would be to have scanner **25** electronically read a document, transmit the electronic message to computer **16** and have computer **16** electronically transmit the message."

Manduley discloses a system that automates the process of distributing incoming within a building. Manduley does not disclose a system that enables a recipient to inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

Hitt discloses the following in lines 49-56 of column 12:

"Assuming the sender is registered, processing continues to a step 725, wherein physical mailing address data are extracted from the e-mail message. Next, in an optional decisional step 735, the physical mailing address of the recipient is derived from the 2-mail address and checked against a database of valid physical addresses. If the physical mailing address is invalid, the sender may be so notified in a step 745."

In the above, Hitt is not notifying the recipient of the deposited physical mail.

Hitt discloses the following in column 11 lines 47-62.

"Assuming that the e-mail message has survived the potential phalanx of tests that may be performed, it comes time for the physical mail generator **620** to create the piece of physical mail that will journey through the physical mail to the recipient. Accordingly, **FIG. 6** illustrates an envelope **660** and a message page **670**. Before delving into an example of how the envelope **660** and message page **670** can be created, those skilled in the pertinent art should understand that the physical mail can take many alternative forms, including a simple postcard, a foldable postcard, standard windowed or nonwindowed envelope containing a folded message page **670**, a large envelope not requiring the message page **670** to be folded and a preformed packet containing the message page **670** and a carbon (such that impact printing on the outside effects formation of writing on the message page **670**)."

Hitt in the foregoing does not notify the carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the physical mail delivered.

Hitt discloses the following in column 13 lines 28-36.

"While certainly more capital-intensive and not necessary to the present invention, wide distribution of printer/mailers may prove to be the most efficient arrangement. Wide distribution of printer/mailers allows the postal service to deliver the resulting physical mail to its intended recipients in one step; each piece of mail is distributed by a single letter carrier and inter-ZIP transfers are avoided. The result is that delivery of the pieces of physical mail can be carried out same-day or in one day. This can significantly decrease mailing time and perhaps can merit reduced postage."

Hitt does not disclose the steps of notifying the carrier that the sender does not elect the deposited physical mail to be diverted; and

delivering physical mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier, if the sender elects to permit the recipient to divert the physical mail.

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Neither Manduley nor Hitt, taken separately or together, discloses the invention claimed by Applicants in claim 1, and those claims dependent thereon. Manduley and Hitt do not disclose anything about having a recipient inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the physical mail delivered.

In view of the above, claims 1-6, are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would the Examiner please telephone the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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